

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT
LEE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Republic of China and its President, Lee Teng-Hui, on the anniversary of Taiwan's first Presidential election. In 1996 President Lee became the first freely-elected President in the history of China. President Lee, who received over 54 percent of the popular vote, has proven that strong leadership does not come from strong-arming the people. Over the past year, his administration has continued to build on the same cornerstones our own country was founded on: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and the pursuit of economic freedom through private enterprise.

Ever since the Republic of China was founded 86 years ago, we have enjoyed a very friendly relationship. Part of that friendship has been based on the Republic of China's strong foreign policy leaders. The Republic of China's newest Minister of Foreign Affairs, John Chang, has done an outstanding job of continuing this tradition. Prior to his appointment last year as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Chang worked more than 30 years to promote better relations between our two countries. Educated here in the United States, Mr. Chang served as the Director of North American Affairs in Taipei, and most recently the Minister of Overseas Chinese Affairs. Many Members of Congress have had the opportunity to meet with him over the past year, and I am sure they join me in congratulating him on a successful first year.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to congratulate Taipei's Representative here in Washington, Ambassador Jason Hu. Ambassador Hu has worked hard to strengthen the political and economic relationship between our two countries. Ambassador Hu has been instrumental in helping Chung Hwa, the newly privatized Taiwanese telecommunications company, open an office here in Washington. Chung Hwa is seeking to purchase more than 10 billion dollars worth of U.S. goods and services. Ambassador Hu's leadership in promoting political and economic relations between our countries is an invaluable resource to our continued friendship. Recently, Dr. Hu received an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Southampton where he studied from 1976 to 1978, earning a master's degree in social science from the Department of Politics. Dr. Hu later earned his Ph.D. in 1985 from Oxford University. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate President Lee for having so wisely chosen a scholar/diplomat to represent the Republic of China in the United States.

A little more than one year ago, Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China held free and fair Presidential elections despite military bullying by the People's Republic of China. The PRC claims to hold elections, but the entire world knows that the people on the mainland have no choice in deciding their political leaders. That is not the case with the Republic of China, which has a multi-party system, respect for individual rights and a robust economy based on free trade. Therefore, it is particularly appropriate to take this opportunity to

congratulate the people of the Republic of China, President Lee, foreign Minister Chang and Ambassador Hu on a very successful year. I know my colleagues join me in wishing them continued success in the future.

**HONORING RIVERSIDE MEMORIAL
CHAPEL**

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak in honor of the Riverside Memorial Chapel which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. It can be said that the Riverside Chapel has been a mirror of the Jewish community of New York City which it has served so faithfully for the past century.

It started in 1897 when Louis Meyers provided a horse-drawn funeral livery service on the lower East Side. These modest beginnings reflected the state of Jews in New York as recent emigrants. The company followed a newer generation to Harlem and in 1926 made a landmark move to Amsterdam Avenue and 76th Street, still the signature location of what was to become Riverside Chapel.

This spectacular four-story building, with its Gothic style chapel and hand-painted religious frescoes, had an implicit dedication to the sensibilities of the three main streams of Judaism. In 1933 Edward and Herman Meyers, grandsons of Louis Meyers, bought the company, renamed it Riverside Memorial Chapel and opened chapels in Far Rockaway and Miami Beach. After World War II, Riverside expanded by purchasing the adjoining building and building new chapels in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Mount Vernon.

Riverside has also expanded throughout the country to establish a national presence so that as Jews left New York City they could still have a "Riverside" funeral. Riverside Chapel has acquired a sterling reputation for service, thanks in part to my close friend, Senior Vice President David A. Alpert. Riverside Chapel is a landmark in New York City which has earned our praise.

**COMMEMORATING THE 135TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF D.C. EMANCI-
PATION**

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, last month, I had the honor of participating in an event commemorating one of the greatest events in our Nation's history—the 135th anniversary of the emancipation of the District of Columbia. On April 16, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law legislation freeing the more than 3,000 slaves owned by residents of the District of Columbia. The action occurred 9 months before Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863.

The mission to free the slaves in the District of Columbia began following a discussion in early 1862 between President Lincoln and Senator Sumner of Massachusetts. During the

conversation, Sumner asked the President if he knew who was the largest slaveholder in the United States. President Lincoln must have been jolted when Sumner answered, "It is you, Mr. President."

At that time, the Federal Government controlled the District of Columbia, where more than 3,000 slaves were held in bondage. Shortly thereafter, Congress passed legislation to free the slaves in the District of Columbia, and President Lincoln signed the D.C. Emancipation Proclamation. The first of our Nation's slaves had been set free.

This week, many great people came together in the District of Columbia to celebrate this momentous event. Among them was a wonderful woman named Loretta Carter Hanes, who along with her son, Peter, helped revive the annual program commemorating the D.C. Emancipation Proclamation. I must also thank my distinguished colleague, Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia, for her great work in the district and her diligence in making sure the commemoration ceremony continues year after year.

I was honored to be included in the commemoration program at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Sponsored by the U.S. National Park Service and D.C. Reading Is Fundamental, Inc., the 2-hour program featured reflections on history and prayers for the future. Particularly moving were the beautiful spiritual songs performed throughout the program. They represented the powerful hopes of the slaves as they one day dreamed of freedom.

Overall, it was an amazing program celebrating an amazing event in history. The only disappointing point of note were the hordes of empty seats in the main auditorium at the Department of the Interior. There should be standing room only for a program of this magnitude.

After speaking with the organizers of this year's event, we determined the D.C. emancipation commemoration would get more exposure—and thus more attendance—by presenting it in the Capitol next year. Not only should we encourage our schools to offer this program to their students, but Members of this body should attend as well.

I also would like to bring attention to a related event that is going to take place tonight at the Smithsonian Institution's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. This event is called the International Emancipation Day Initiative Program and will examine the abolition of chattel slavery by the British Empire within its colonies on August 1, 1834, a historic action which fueled abolitionists movements worldwide. Included at this event, Peter Hanes will speak and exhibit literature about D.C. emancipation. He will also introduce D.C. emancipation historian C.R. Gibbs, noted author, journalist, and historian of the African Diaspora.

**OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2—THE
HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY ACT**

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to vigorously call for defeat of H.R. 2—The Housing